

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-25 are pending and stand rejected in the application. This communication amends claims 1-17 and cancels claims 18-25. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings have been amended to include reference numbers mentioned in the specification, but not included in the drawings. In Figure 1, reference number 10 has been added to identify the low-resolution base layer image or signal denoted by reference number 10 in the specification, and reference number 30 has been added to identify the spatial resolution layer image denoted by reference number 30 in the specification. In Figure 2, reference number 105 has been added to identify the received image denoted by reference number 105 in the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and the specification is respectfully urged.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-12, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,603,883 to Hamanaka.

In response, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to distinguish over Hamanaka. Claim 1 is representative of these claims and now recites:

A method of decoding a video signal including a base layer stream and a plurality of enhancement layer streams, said method comprising the steps of:

decoding said base layer stream to produce base layer video frames;
 decoding a first one of said enhancement layer[[s]] streams to produce quality enhanced video frames;
 combining said base layer video frames and at least portions of said quality enhanced video frames to produce a first video frame output;
 upscaling said said first video frame output;
 decoding a second one of said enhancement layer streams to produce spatially enhanced video frames;
 combining said spatially enhanced video frames and said upscaled first video frame output to produce a second video frame output.

Hamanaka does not expressly or inherently describe the subject matter of currently amended claim 1. For example, Hamanaka does not expressly or inherently describe “combining said base layer video frames and at least portions of said quality enhanced video frames to produce a first video frame output...upsampling said said first video frame output...combining said spatially enhanced video frames and said upscaled first video frame output to produce a second video frame output,” as presently claimed. Since Hamanaka does not described these claimed elements, claims 1, 6 and 11 are not anticipated by Hamanaka. Claims 2-5; 7-10; and 12, 15-17 are also not anticipated by Hamanaka for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to claims 1, 6 and 11 from which they respectively depend. In addition, claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 15-17 recite other features not described by Hamanaka. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

4. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamanaka.

As stated above, Hamanaka does not expressly or inherently describe the subject matter of claims 1, 6 and 11 from which claims 3-4, 8-9 and 13-14 respectively depend. For at least these reasons, claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are patentable over Hamanaka. In addition, claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13 and 14 recite other features not taught or suggested by Hamanaka. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

5. Claims 18-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamanaka in view of U.S. 6,700,933 to Wu.

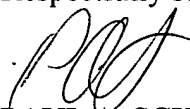
Claims 18-25 have been canceled herein, therefore, this rejection is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

6. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a

telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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